

BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE OF NEBRASKA

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.)
Commissioner of Education)
301 Centennial Mall South)
P.O. Box 94933)
Lincoln, NE 68509-4933,)

Petitioner,)

v.)

Jackson Hedrick, #83236)
Diagnostic & Evaluation Center)
P.O. Box 22800)
Lincoln, NE 68542,)

Respondent.)

NDE Case No. 16-04

FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the State Board of Education ("State Board"), Lincoln, Nebraska, on May 6, 2016, upon the recommendation of the Nebraska Professional Practices Commission ("NPPC") that the public school certificates of the Respondent, Jackson Hedrick, be permanently revoked. The parties were notified of the State Board's consideration in this matter. Appearing before the State Board was Brian L. Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of the Commissioner of Education. The Respondent did not appear. NPPC Clerk Kathy Vontz provided a summary of the NPPC's recommendation in this matter.

The record of the NPPC proceeding, containing the "Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of the Commission," all of the pleadings, exhibits, and a written transcript of the NPPC hearing, was received by the State Board into evidence as "Exhibit 1." The Notice of Disposition and the certified return receipt were received into evidence as "Exhibit 2." Upon its independent review of the entire record, the State Board

finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

1. The State Board has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866 (2014);

2. The Petitioner is Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln, NE 68509-4933;

3. The Respondent is Jackson Hedrick, #83236, Diagnostic & Evaluation Center, P.O. Box 22800, Lincoln, NE 68542;

4. The Respondent holds two public Nebraska certificates, i.e., (1) Local Substitute teaching in the Lincoln Public Schools, number 2014001500, endorsed in Social Science 7-12, with an expiration date of August 31, 2017; and (2) Initial teaching number 2014010236, endorsed in Social Science 7-12, with an expiration date of August 31, 2019;

5. The Respondent was employed by the Lincoln Public Schools as a social studies teacher and coach beginning with the 2014-2015 school year until his contract was terminated by the school board on April 14, 2015;

6. The Respondent admitted to law enforcement officials to engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a 14-year old female student, which included sexual contact, sending inappropriate text messages, and providing alcohol;

7. On October 14, 2015, pursuant to a plea agreement, the Respondent pled guilty in the Lancaster County District Court to Sexual Assault/Minor-First Degree, a Class II felony, and the remaining charges were dismissed. On December 10, 2015, the Respondent was sentenced to 20-30 years of incarceration and required to register as a sex offender; and

8. The Respondent has violated Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014) which states, in pertinent part: "The board may, for just cause, revoke or suspend any teacher's or administrator's certificate. Violation of the standards established pursuant to this section, commission of an immoral act, or conviction of a felony under the laws of this state shall constitute just cause for the revocation or suspension of a teacher's or administrator's certificate by the board"; Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 27, Section 004.02E (effective date: November 12, 2013) ("the educator . . . shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage"); Section 004.03C (same effective date) ("the educator . . . shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety"); and Section 004.04E (same effective date) ("the educator . . . shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, or any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory, and shall not have a misdemeanor conviction involving abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct as defined in Sections 003.12 through 003.14 of 92 NAC 21");

9. By a preponderance of the evidence, just cause exists pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014) to permanently revoke Respondent's certificates; and

10. The two public Nebraska certificates of Jackson Hedrick, i.e., (1) Local Substitute teaching in the Lincoln Public Schools, number 2014001500, endorsed in Social Science 7-12, with an expiration date of August 31, 2017, and (2) Initial teaching number 2014010236, endorsed in Social Science 7-12, with an expiration date of August 31, 2019, shall be permanently revoked beginning this date.

Dated this 6TH day of May, 2016.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY: Rachel Wise
Rachel Wise, President

The vote by the State Board of Education to approve the Final Order in Case No. 16-04, on May 6, 2016, was 8 in favor, _____ against, _____ abstaining, and _____ absent. Individual State Board members voted as follows:

IN FAVOR: L. LARSEN, G. FLINT, R. WISE, J. WITZEL, P. TIMM, M. NICKELS,
M.O'HOLLERAN, P. McPHERSON

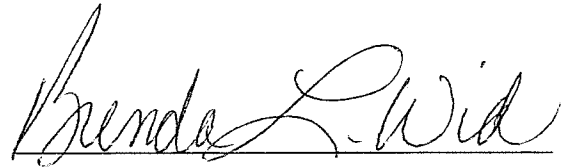
AGAINST: _____

ABSTAINING: _____

ABSENT: _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Final Order was served upon the Respondent, Jackson Hedrick, #83236, Diagnostic & Evaluation Center, P.O. Box 22800, Lincoln, NE 68542, via United States mail; Kathi Vontz, NPPC Clerk, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower Level, Lincoln, NE 68509, via interoffice mail; and Brian L. Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, Sixth Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509, via interoffice mail, all on this 6th day of May, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brenda L. Wid", is written over a horizontal line.

49-1570-29